

THE CONSERVATION FRONT: CONGRESSMEN, LOOK OUT!

Well, fellow-workers in Conservation, we admit to being heated almost to the boiling point when we wrote that September editorial about the 86th Congress. Now that we look at the late, departed body in retrospect at their record, we still feel much the same. But we advise our rank and file to hold their fire for greater effect when the law-makers return to their seats next January. That is, unless one of those candidates comes within range at some meeting in our neck of the woods, when he might be asked his individual position on some of those issued.

N.A.S. President Carl Buckheister gave us fresh courage and motivation when he related at the Garden Party his impressions of the Warsaw Conference of the International Union for the Protection of Nature. Now that so few really wild areas remain in Europe, people of diverse languages and political beliefs feel and act in unison to protect them. We hope it may be so in Asia, Africa--and North and South America--before it is too late. At least, we have a good battle plan for the U.S.A.

Some bright new weapons have been put in our hands. I mean the new films just released by the Sierra Club: "Island in Time," filmed by Laurel Reynolds and Mindy Willis, the Pt. Reyes Peninsula preservation argument; and "Nature Next Door," a captivating film made by Dr. Robert C. Stebbins mainly in the Tilden Nature Area but winding up with gruesome scenes of bulldozing and landscape mutilation, and then some views of how little, local wild places may be saved. Better take one or both of these films to your club, youth group or PTA and school if possible!

P.S. Regarding the Rainbow Bridge threat, the Park Service and the Department of the Interior, we may have spoken too hastily and harshly. It appears from our replies that, since Congress refused funds asked by these agencies for protective structures, they are powerless to halt Glen Canyon work without incurring breach of contract suits!

PAUL F. COVEL, Conservation Chairman

AUGUST TRIP TO MOSS LANDING AND MONTEREY

On Saturday and Sunday, the 27th and 28th of August, a small group of Golden Gate Auduboners went on, what turned out to be, a well worth-while field trip to Moss Landing and Monterey.

At the meeting place a Red Phalarope in partial breeding plumage, which was caught for banding before light that morning, was exam-

ined, discussed and finally released. After this, a walk (with permission) was taken along the dikes of the salt works across the road from Moss Landing. Here we obtained beautiful views of an immature Sabine Gull, all three Phalaropes and a juvenile Snowy Plover which was caught and examined.

We next drove out to the jetty which protects the harbor at Moss Landing where, chasing some 40 Elegant Terns, were both Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers with their Hawk-like flight. A Least Tern and three Pacific Loons in breeding plumage were also cavorting about the area. Then, after picking up some Knots on the mud flats, the group broke up to reassemble at two o'clock in Monterey.

Nothing much was seen at this location except a Common Loon in breeding plumage so the group went on to the Mouth of the Carmel River. At this very picturesque spot we saw very good numbers of shorebirds not including Baird Sandpipers which are usually present in this area.

Before dawn the next morning a few members of the group went owling in a well-known owling spot in Carmel Valley. The birds heard that morning included California Thrasher, Pygmy Owl, Great Horned Owl and Screech Owl.

On the boat trip, which left at the rather late hour of 9:30 from Monterey Harbor, we saw many pelagic species, the most outstanding being Black Petrel, Ashy Petrel, and New Zealand Shearwater. Of course there were many other pelagic species such as Black-footed Albatross, Sooty Shearwater and a few Auklets.

After the group broke up a few members saw 25 Lesser Yellowlegs on a small pond about five miles east of Castroville.

The following 142 species were seen on the trip: Common and Arctic Loon; Eared and Pied-billed Grebe; Black-footed Albatross; Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwater; Fork-tailed, Black and Ashy Petrel; Brown Pelican; Double-crested, Brandt and Pelagic Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Snowy Egret; Black-crowned Night Heron; Mallard; Pintail; Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal; Shoveller; Redhead; Lesser Scaup; White-winged and Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Red breasted Merganser; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite; Cooper, Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawk; California Quail; Coot; Snowy and Semipalmated Plover; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Surfbird; Ruddy and Black Turnstone; Wilson Snipe; Long-billed Curlew; Whimbrel; Wandering Tattler; Willet; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; Knot; Least Sandpiper; Short-billed Dowitcher; Western Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; Avocet; Black-necked Stilt; Red, Wilson and Northern Phalarope; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaeger; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California Ring-billed and Sabine Gull; Forster, Least, Elegant and Caspian Tern; Common Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Cassin and Rhinoceros Auklet; Mourning Dove; Barn, Screech, Great-Horned, and Pygmy Owl; Anna and Allen Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; California Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Hairy and Downy Woodpecker; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Black Phoebe; Gray and Western Flycatcher; Western Wood Pewee; Olive-sided Flycatcher Horned Lark; Violet-green, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallow; Steller and California Jay; Common Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Wrentit; House, Bewick and Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Robin; Swainson Thrush; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Loggerhead Shrike; Warbling Vireo; Orange-crowned, Yellow and MacGillivray Warbler; Yellowthroat; Wilson Warbler; English Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer Blackbird; Cowbird; Western Tanager; Black-

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Berkeley, Mrs. Margaret K. Bolton, Miss Margaret E. Bruns, Dr. Jack Cathcart, Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Schafer, and Mrs. Marjorie Walker; from Castro Valley, Mrs. Vera E. Mork and Mrs. Margaret Richardson; from El Cerrito, Miss L. Coretha Mead; from Glendale, Mr. E. S. Reile; from Hillsborough, Mr. Nion Tucker; from Lafayette, Miss Rowena R. de Meter and Mrs. Maude M. Kulstad; from Oakland, Miss Grace Sandbeck; from Richmond Annex, Mr. & Mrs. Fred C. Tower; from San Francisco, Dr. Maleta J. Boatman, Miss Barbara Bortin, Mrs. J. A. Hawker, Mrs. Nona Healey, and Miss Inez Welch; and from Vancouver, B.C., Canada, Mr. Bristol Foster.

Total membership (including Local and Gull Only) 871

AGNES OCZKEWECZ, Membership Chairman

OCTOBER MEETING

The 511th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in San Francisco, Thursday, October 13th, 7:30 p.m. at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum on Roosevelt Way and 16th Street. (Take No. 43 bus at Market and 14th). Our speaker will be Mr. Bert L. Smith, of the Irrigation Districts association of California, in charge of the educational program on water problems carried on by that Association. His subject: "Water in California--1960--The Critical Year". As this subject of water is so important, so timely, and it is such a privilege to have Mr. Smith, we urge everybody not to miss this meeting, and bring ALL your friends. After his talk, Mr. Smith will answer questions from the audience, so come prepared to quiz him. Afterwards there will be shown a color picture from the U.C. Extension files called "The Birth of a Florida Key," a story of that chain of 700 islands in the Caribbean Sea, each one the creation of bush and bird.

BONNIE SMITH, Program Chairman

FIELD TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

On Sunday, October 9, Leslie Salt Works (Salt Marsh Sanctuary) near Newark. This area is along the route of the fall migration of shore birds, ducks and grebes. Clapper Rail and other marsh birds may be seen. Black Rail have been reported by observers. A walk on a dike enclosing salt water ponds will be made so hiking shoes are suggested. High tide will be at 10 a.m.

For lunch the group will go to the C. F. Giles Ranch in the Irvington District of Fremont. This place has many old and beautiful planted trees which afford habitat for many resident as well as migratory land birds.

Those who went on the trip to this ranch on March 28, 1959 will well remember the fine welcome given our group by the Giles family. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch and interested friends. Meet at the post office in Newark at 9 a.m. Leader, Paul Covell, KE 6-4120.

On Saturday, October 15, to St. Mary's College and vicinity. This is a favorite spot for all of the local birding groups. The oak-laurel-madrone woods border on open grass and sparse oaks, habitat for a great variety of land birds. The adjacent pond produces many exciting species particularly during migration. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch and interested friends. Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking

headed Grosbeak; House Finch; Pine Siskin; American and Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Savannah Sparrow; Oregon Junco; White-crowned and Song Sparrow.

RICHARD STALLCUP, Leader and Historian

OBSERVATIONS AND FIELD NOTES

Following are observations and field notes of general interest. All members and friends of the G.G.A.S. are encouraged to contribute their sightings to The Gull. Observations for the most part are: from the 15th of one month to the 15th of the next and should reach the editor by the 18th of the month if not before.

On a boat trip to the Farallone Islands with the Oakland Mills Alumnae Club on August 3, a huge flock of SOOTY SHEARWATERS was sighted measuring about "two miles by four", and containing about 3/4 million birds (Howard L. Cogswell, Richard Stallcup). Two possible HARRIS HAWKS were observed by E. W. Jameson, a falconer at Davis on August 2. A SOLITARY SANDPIPER was present at Woodland on September 18 (RS, Marie Mans, Guy McCaskie). LESSER YELLOW-LEGS have been showing up in good numbers this season, including 3 at the Aquatic Park in Berkeley on Sept. 9 (RS, John Ralph) and some 30 in the Sacramento Valley on Sept. 18 (RS, GMcC, MM). PECTORAL SANDPIPERS are also appearing in good numbers with individuals at Bay Farm Island (Sept. 3, Junea Kelly), Farallone Islands (Aug. 31, HLC, RS), and upwards of a dozen in the Sacramento Valley (Sept. 18, MM, RS, GMcC). BAIRD SANDPIPERS were present in somewhat less numbers than normal with 2 at Santa Cruz on Aug. 27 (MM), one at Boca Reservoir on Sept. 4 (GMcC) and one at Bay Farm Island on Aug. 29 (RS). PHALAROPES are plentiful with many staying on later than usual (Betsey Cutler). A LAUGHING or more probably a FRANKLIN GULL was seen on Sept. 8 at the Berkeley Aquatic Park (John Morley, A. Laurence Curl). An Immature SABINE GULL turned up sick at Lake Merritt and soon died on Sept. 10 (Gardner Marshall). A beautiful ARCTIC TERN in breeding plumage was seen on Sept. 9 at the Aquatic Park in Berkeley (RS, JR). ELEGANT TERNS came back this year to the Bay Area in great numbers. From about 10 at Moss Landing on July 31 they were sighted as far north as Alameda (one) and the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza where about a dozen were present on Sept. 3 (MM). Their numbers built up until Sept. 15 when 250 were present (JR). A POMARINE JAEGER was seen with the Elegants on Sept. 3 (MM). An unusual inland record is that of 3 PARASITIC JAEGERs at Lake Tahoe on Sept. 4 (GMcC). 3 YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS, a bird not recorded in California for several years, were seen on Sept. 18 at the Yolo bypass (RS, MM, GMcC). Another possible sighting was on Aug. 14 at Santa Rosa (Natalie Mestechin). About 100 RED CROSS-BILLS were present on Mt. Tamalpais on July 10 (MM).

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of
Professor Lester C. Uren

Gift of
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Contributions to this fund, which are tax deductible, should be sent to Dr. Albert Boles, Sanctuary and Memorial Fund Chairman, 854 Longridge Road, Oakland 10, California.

This fund will pay for expenses incurred when the G.G.A.S. acquires new sanctuaries, and should be remembered when one that is near passes on.

ALBERT BOLES, Fund Chairman

area inside the front entrance to the college. This school is one mile northwest of Moraga. Leader, Myra Browne, TW 3-5469.

On Saturday, October 22, to Tomales State Park and vicinity. Land, shore and water birds are plentiful in this area at this time. The varied habitat of fresh and salt water marshes, open fields, open water and wooded area attracts many species. Many birds will be migrating. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch and interested friends. Meet at the store in Inverness at 9 a.m. Leader, Marie Mans, TH 8-5186.

On Sunday, October 30, to Farallone Islands on the Privateer II. This will be a joint boat trip of the Golden Gate and Marin Audubon Societies. Departure will be at 5:30 a.m. with a later pickup of passengers in San Francisco. Complete information as to time, clothing, etc., will be sent to those who reserve a space. Fee is \$7.50 per person. This should be sent to the Field Trips Chairman, Harold G. Peterson, 3548 - 65th Ave., Oakland 5, with your name, address and phone number. Make all checks payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society Inc. Names will be placed on the passenger list in the order received. Leader, to be announced.

WATERFOWL REFUGES FIELD TRIP

On the weekend of November 5 and 6 there will be a joint field trip of the Golden Gate and Mt. Diablo Audubon Societies to visit the waterfowl refuges in the Sacramento Valley. The route will be reversed from that of the two previous years. Saturday we will meet at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the headquarters of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. This is 7 miles south of Willows on Route 99W. Those wishing to make the overnight stop should make reservations in or near Gridley which is across the valley on Route 99E. Duck shooting season will be on so lodging will be in great demand.

A social evening is being planned at Woodward's Country Kitchen on Route 99E south of Gridley on Saturday. This place serves excellent meals. Drop a card to the leader if you plan to join the group.

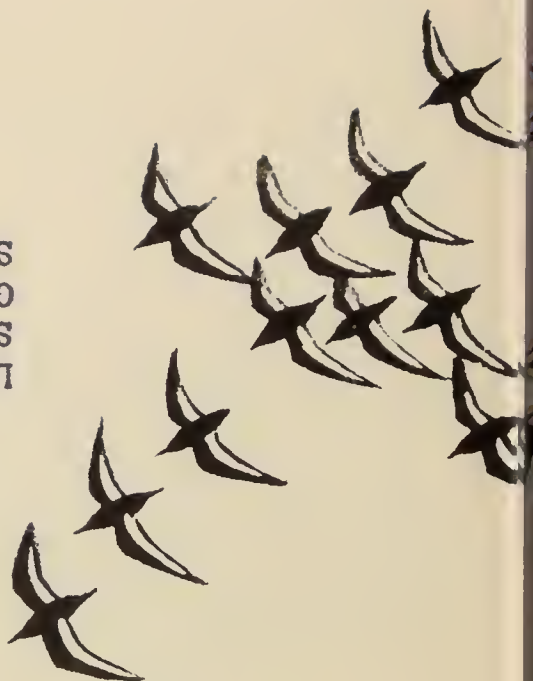
On Sunday meet at the post office in Gridley at 8 a.m. for a conducted trip to Grey Lodge Waterfowl Management Area southwest of Gridley. To reach this area from Gridley drive west of Colusa road approximately 4 miles, then turn south on Pennington road to sign on right directing traffic to the refuge. It can also be reached from 99E by turning west at Live Oak and driving until Sutter Buttes are reached, and then turning north. It is advisable to ask at service stations in Live Oak for directions and road conditions. Leader, Harry Adamson, 995 Carrol Way, Lafayette, AT 3-2164. The driving time from bay area points to Saturday meeting place is about 3 hours and distance 130 miles.

FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE MEETING

Your ideas and suggestions have helped to give the society a fine field trips program. We need more of them. On Thursday, October 27, 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. there will be a meeting of the committee at the library in the Rotary Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland. Also on Thursday, November 3, 8:00 to 9:30 p.m., a meeting of the San Francisco members of the committee will be held at the apartment of Aileen Pierson, 810 Gonzales Drive, Apt. 12A. Purpose of these meetings is to set up a good field trips program for 1961. All interested persons are invited to attend.

HAROLD G. PETERSON, Field Trips Chairman

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.50 per year.

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